

PROPOSAL

FOR

ESTABLISHING,

IN

THE CITY OF GLASGOW,

AN INFIRMARY

FOR

**The Diseases of the Eye.**

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GLASGOW;

PRINTED BY JAMES STARKE.

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1824.

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1720-1725

1726-1730

1731-1735

1736-1740

1741-1745

# GLASGOW

## EYE INFIRMARY.

At a Meeting, called by the LORD PROVOST, and held in the Town Hall, on the 10th of February, 1824, for the purpose of considering the propriety of establishing in the City of Glasgow, an INFIRMARY for the RELIEF of the POOR AFFLICTED with DISEASES of the EYE,

*The LORD PROVOST in the Chair;*

The Chairman called the attention of the Meeting to the importance of the subject submitted to their consideration. He then communicated the following information, received from Dr. George C. Monteath, and Mr. William Mackenzie, Andersonian Professor of Anatomy and Surgery:—That diseases of the Eye prevail among the working classes of this populous community to an extent of which the benevolent public could form no previous conception; that the first of these Gentlemen has treated during the last three years no less than 3952 cases; that the second has likewise afforded relief to a great number; that the applications for surgical aid cannot be estimated at much fewer than 2000 annually; that the Royal Infirmary has not been resorted to as a receptacle for these peculiar complaints, as only 122 patients were admitted during the last three years; that the objects of an Eye Infirmary are both prevention and cure; that of the numerous diseases to which the Eye is subject, most are susceptible of remedy by early and proper care, while from neglect or unskilfulness they often terminate in total and irrecoverable blindness; that sometimes, however, when the sense of vision appears to be lost, when the patient has continued for years deprived of sight, and even when he has been blind from birth, by the ingenious and improved practice of modern times this invaluable faculty may be restored—of which the London establishment affords 464 instances, and of these no fewer than 96 who were born blind; that not only in the Metropolis, but in Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh, and the principal towns of the empire, such institutions have now been generally formed; that in Glasgow, the second in point of population, and inferior

to none in point of humanity, there can be no doubt of similar success; that no reflection can be more delightful than that of being instrumental in thus alleviating the acutest pain, in saving the blessing of sight to our fellow-creatures, and diffusing the domestic happiness with which it is connected; that even on the ground of public expediency, the benefits of such an establishment will be apparent, as it may be the means of enabling many to resume their industry, and preventing them from throwing themselves and their families on parochial protection; and that in all probability, the whole design may be accomplished, so as to relieve every case of Eye-disease occurring among the poor of this city, by an annual expenditure of £150 to £200.

After this statement was considered, it was moved by Henry MONTEITH, Esq., M. P., seconded by JAMES EWING, Esq., and unanimously resolved,

That this Meeting do highly approve of the establishment of an INFIRMARY in GLASGOW for the RELIEF of the POOR AFFLICTED with DISEASES of the EYE, and that a Committee be appointed for preparing the proper Regulations, and reporting to a future Meeting.

The following Gentlemen were then named as a Committee for this purpose.

The Lord Provost,	Dr. Thomas Brown,
Rev. Dr. Ranken,	Dr. George C. Monteath,
Rev. Mr. Smyth,	Mr. William Mackenzie,
James Ewing, Esq.	Mr. Anthony Wigham,
Robert Thomson, Esq.	Mr. Thomas Stenhouse,
Robert Dalglish, Esq.	Mr. William Ewing.

Dr. Monteath to be Convener.

The following Gentlemen were likewise appointed as a Committee, for the purpose of collecting the necessary subscriptions.

Mr. James Hunter,	Mr. Thomas Stenhouse.
Mr. John Alston.	Mr. James Davidson.
Mr. John Smith.	Dr. G. C. Monteath.
Mr. Robert Thomson.	Mr. William Mackenzie.

The thanks of the Meeting were then voted to the Lord Provost for his conduct in the Chair.



## PLAN.

I. To give Advice, Surgical aid, and Medicines gratuitously, to all poor persons afflicted with diseases of the Eye, recommended by a Magistrate, Minister, or Elder, or by a Donor of Five Guineas and upwards, or Annual Subscriber of Half-a-Guinea and upwards.

II. To perform gratuitously the necessary Operations for the recovery of sight, at the patients' own houses; and to visit them there, and supply them with Medicines, when their attendance at the Infirmary would be detrimental to their recovery.

III. Patients from the country to be admitted to the benefit of the Infirmary, whose parishes shall contribute Five Guineas at once, or Half-a-Guinea annually.

IV. In the event of the Funds proving insufficient, a preference to be given to the recommendations of Donors and Subscribers.

V. As the Institution is intended for the benefit of the poor, ~~none to be recommended who are able to subsist and pay for medicines and advice.~~

VI. For the present, none of the patients to reside in the Infirmary, which may be merely a house or part of a house rented for the purpose, where the patients shall attend on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at 12 o'clock, noon.

VII. To be under the management of a President, twelve Directors, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and two Surgeons, out of whom a Committee to be chosen for the more immediate care of its affairs.

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The names of those who may wish to support this Institution will be received by the members of the Committee already mentioned, and by all intrusted by them with Proposals. Subscription-papers lie at the Tontine Coffee Room, the Athenæum, and the Argyle Coffee Room; also with Dr. Monteath, 87, Glassford Street; Mr. Mackenzie, 242, George Street; Messrs. Ferguson & Stewart, 633, Argyle Street; Messrs. Miller & Ewing, 145, Trongate; Messrs. John Smith & Son, 85, Hutcheson Street; Messrs. Reid & Henderson, 170, Trongate; and Mr. Ogle, 9, Wilson Street.

	Donations.	Annual Subscriptions.
<i>Mr. Maclellan's Paid,</i>		<i>1.1. ✓</i>

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to none in point of humanity, there can be no doubt of similar success; that no reflection can be more delightful than that of being instrumental in thus alleviating the acutest pain in saving the blessing of sight to our fellow-creatures, and diffusing the domestic happiness with which it is connected that even on the ground of public expediency, the benefits of such an establishment will be apparent, as it may be the means of enabling many to resume their industry, and preventing them from throwing themselves and their families on parochial protection; and that in all probability, the whole design may be accomplished, so as to relieve every case of Eye disease occurring among the poor of this city, by an annual expenditure of £150 to £200.

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Mr. Robert Thomson.	Mr. William Mackenzie.

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## SKETCH OF A PLAN,

*To be considered by the Committee, and reported on, at the General Meeting.*

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